

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL) Case No. CV 24-5459 FMO (MAAx)
12 DIVERSITY, et al.,)
13 Plaintiffs,)
14 v.) **SCHEDULING AND CASE MANAGEMENT**
15 DEBRA HAALAND, et al.,) **ORDER RE: BENCH TRIAL**
16 Defendants.)
17 _____)

18 PLEASE READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT GOVERNS THIS CASE AND DIFFERS
19 IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.

20 The term “Counsel,” as used in this Order, includes parties appearing pro se.

21 The court has scheduled the dates set forth on the last two pages of this Order after review
22 of the parties’ Joint Rule 26(f) Report. Therefore, the court deems a Scheduling Conference
23 unnecessary and hereby **vacates** the hearing. The dates and requirements set forth in this Order
24 are firm. The court is unlikely to grant continuances, even if stipulated by the parties, unless the
25 parties establish good cause through a proper showing.

26 In an effort to comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 1’s mandate “to secure the just, speedy, and
27 inexpensive determination of every action[,]” the court **orders** as follows.
28

1 I. JOINDER OF PARTIES AND AMENDMENT OF PLEADINGS.

2 Any stipulation or motion to amend as to any claims, defenses, or parties shall be filed by
3 the deadline set forth in the attached schedule, failing which it shall be deemed that the party has
4 waived any such amendments. All unserved parties not timely served shall be dismissed without
5 prejudice. In addition, all "Doe" defendants are to be identified and named on or before the date
6 set forth below, on which date all remaining "Doe" defendants will be deemed dismissed, unless
7 otherwise ordered by the court upon a showing of good cause.

8 II. DISCOVERY.

9 A. Generally.

10 Counsel are expected to comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and all Local
11 Rules concerning discovery. Pro se litigants are entitled to discovery to the same extent as
12 litigants represented by counsel. The court allows discovery to commence as soon as the first
13 answer or motion to dismiss is filed. The parties should note that absent exceptional
14 circumstances, **discovery shall not be stayed** while any motion is pending, including any motion
15 to dismiss or motion for protective order. Whenever possible, the court expects counsel to
16 resolve discovery disputes among themselves in a courteous, reasonable, and professional
17 manner. The court expects that counsel will adhere strictly to the Civility and Professionalism
18 Guidelines (available on the Central District's website under Information for Attorneys > Attorney
19 Admissions).

20 B. Discovery Cut-Off.

21 The court has established a cut-off date for discovery, including expert discovery, if
22 applicable. This is not the date by which discovery requests must be served; it is the date by
23 which all discovery, **including hearings on any related motions**, is to be completed. **The**
parties are directed to conduct any necessary discovery as soon as possible, as the court
is not inclined to grant any extensions of the discovery or other case-related deadlines.

26 C. Discovery Motions.

27 Any motion relating to a deposition or challenging the adequacy of discovery responses
28 must be filed, served, and calendared sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-off date to permit

1 the responses to be obtained and/or the deposition to be completed before the discovery cut-off
2 if the motion is granted. Given the requirements set forth in the Local Rules (e.g., “meet and
3 confer” and preparation of the Joint Stipulation), any party seeking to file a discovery motion must
4 usually initiate meet and confer discussions at least seven (7) weeks before the discovery cut-off,
5 i.e., by preparing and serving the letter required by Local Rule 37-1.

6 D. Expert Discovery.

7 All disclosures must be made in writing. The parties should begin expert discovery
8 immediately after the initial designation of experts. The final pretrial conference and trial dates will
9 not be continued because expert discovery is not completed. Failure to comply with these or any
10 other orders concerning expert discovery may result in the expert being excluded as a witness.

11 III. MOTIONS.

12 The court has established a cut-off date for the filing and service of motions for the court’s
13 law and motion calendar. Counsel should consult the court’s Initial Standing Order and related
14 procedures, located on the Central District’s website,¹ to determine the court’s requirements
15 concerning motions and other matters. Any motion that is noticed more than 35 days beyond the
16 date the motion is filed may be stricken or advanced to an earlier motion date. If the motion is
17 advanced to an earlier motion date, counsel shall comply with the briefing schedule dictated by
18 the new hearing date. See Local Rules 7-9 & 7-10.

19 If documentary evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion exceeds 50 pages, the
20 evidence must be separately bound and tabbed and include an index. If such evidence exceeds
21 **300 pages**, the documents shall be placed in a **three-ring binder**, with an index and with each
22 item of evidence separated by a tab divider on the right side. In addition, counsel shall provide
23 an electronic copy (i.e., cd, dvd, or flash drive) of the documents in a single, OCR-scanned PDF
24 file with each item of evidence separated by labeled bookmarks. Counsel shall ensure that all
25 documents are legible. Counsel are strongly encouraged to cite docket numbers (and sub-

26
27 ¹ <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov> > Judges’ Requirements > Judges’ Procedures and Schedules
28 > Hon. Fernando M. Olguin (<http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-fernando-m-olguin>).

1 numbers) when citing to the record.

2 IV. SETTLEMENT.

3 Pursuant to Local Rule 16-15, the parties must complete a settlement conference. No case
4 will proceed to trial unless all parties, including the principals of all corporate parties, have
5 appeared personally at a settlement conference.

6 If the case settles, counsel shall file a Notice of Settlement no later than 24 hours after the
7 case is settled, stating when they expect to file their dismissal papers. Otherwise, **the parties**
8 **must, no later than 48 hours after the settlement proceeding is completed, file a Status**
9 **Report Re: Settlement** in accordance with the requirements set forth on the last two pages of this
10 Order.

11 V. TRIAL PREPARATION.

12 A. Final Pretrial Conference.

13 Unless excused for good cause, each party appearing in this action shall be represented
14 at the final pretrial conference by lead trial counsel. Counsel must be prepared to discuss
15 streamlining the trial, including presentation of testimony by deposition excerpts or summaries,
16 time limits, stipulations as to undisputed facts, and qualification of experts by admitted resumes.

17 B. Pretrial Documents.

18 The filing schedule for pretrial documents is set forth on the last two pages of this Order.
19 **Unless otherwise indicated, compliance with Local Rule 16 is required. The court does not**
20 **exempt pro se parties from the requirements of this Order or Local Rule 16.** Carefully
21 prepared memoranda of contentions of fact and law, witness lists, a pretrial exhibit stipulation, and
22 a proposed pretrial conference order shall be submitted in accordance with the Local Rules and
23 the requirements set forth in this Order. All pretrial document copies shall be delivered to the court
24 "binder-ready" (three-hole punched on the left side, without blue-backs, and stapled only in the top
25 left corner). Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the imposition of sanctions
26 as well as the pretrial conference being taken off-calendar or continued.

27 1. **Witness Lists.**

28 In addition to the requirements of Local Rule 16-5, the witness lists must include a brief

1 description (one or two paragraphs) of the testimony of each witness.

2 **2. Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation.²**

3 No later than fourteen (14) days before the deadline set forth below to file the Pretrial
4 Exhibit Stipulation, counsel shall conduct a good faith meet and confer in person to discuss all the
5 trial exhibits and each party's position with respect to the admissibility of each exhibit. The Pretrial
6 Exhibit Stipulation shall contain each party's numbered list of trial exhibits, with objections, if any,
7 to each exhibit, including the basis of the objection and the offering party's brief response. All
8 exhibits to which there is no objection shall be deemed admitted. The parties shall stipulate to the
9 authenticity and foundation of exhibits whenever possible, and the Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation shall
10 identify any exhibits to which authenticity or foundation have not been stipulated and the specific
11 reasons for the parties' failure to stipulate.

12 The Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation shall be substantially in the following form:

13 **Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation**

14 **Plaintiff(s)/Defendant(s)' Exhibits**

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Stip. to Adm.³</u>	<u>Objection</u>	<u>Response to Objection</u>
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16
17 Failure to comply with this section may be deemed a waiver of all objections. Each
18 objection must include the grounds for the objection (e.g., a Federal Rule of Evidence) and an
19 explanation of why the disputed exhibit is not admissible. **Do not submit** blanket or boilerplate
20 objections to the opposing party's exhibits. These will be disregarded and overruled.

21 **3. Proposed Pretrial Conference Order.**

22 The format of the proposed final pretrial conference order shall conform to the format set
23 forth in Appendix A to the Local Rules. In drafting the proposed pretrial conference order, the
24 parties shall attempt to agree on and set forth as many undisputed facts as possible. A carefully
25

26 ² It is not necessary to file the Joint Exhibit List required by Local Rule 16-6.1.
27
28 ³ The Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation shall indicate in this column whether an exhibit is admitted for
identification purposes only.

1 drafted and comprehensively stated stipulation of facts will reduce the length of trial.

2 C. Motions in Limine.

3 Each party is allowed a maximum of three motions in limine, which must be filed no later
4 than the deadline set forth below. In the event a party believes that more than three motions in
5 limine are necessary, the party must obtain leave of court to file additional motions in limine. The
6 court will not hear or resolve motions in limine that are disguised summary judgment motions.

7 Before filing any motion in limine, counsel for the parties shall confer in a good faith effort
8 to eliminate the necessity for the filing of the motion in limine or to eliminate as many of the
9 disputes as possible. Counsel for the moving party shall be responsible for arranging this
10 conference. The conference shall take place in person, with a court reporter present, within seven
11 (7) calendar days of service upon opposing counsel of a letter requesting such conference, but
12 in no event later than fourteen (14) days before the deadline for filing motions in limine. Unless
13 counsel agree otherwise, the conference shall take place at the office of counsel for the moving
14 party. The moving party's letter shall: identify the testimony, exhibits, or other specific matters
15 alleged to be admissible or inadmissible; state thoroughly with respect to each such matter the
16 moving party's position (and provide any legal authority which the moving party believes is
17 dispositive); and specify the terms of the order to be sought.

18 If counsel are unable to resolve their differences, they shall prepare and file a separate,
19 sequentially numbered joint motion in limine for each issue in dispute. Each joint motion in limine
20 shall consist of one document signed by all counsel. The joint motion in limine shall contain a
21 clear identification of the testimony, exhibits, or other specific matters alleged to be admissible or
22 inadmissible, and a statement of the specific prejudice that the moving party will suffer if the
23 motion is not granted. The identification of the matters in dispute shall be followed by each party's
24 contentions and each party's memorandum of points and authorities. The title page of the joint
25 motion in limine must contain a clear caption identifying the moving party and the nature of the
26 dispute (e.g., "Plaintiff's Motion in Limine No. 1 to Exclude the Testimony of Defendant's Expert")
27 and state the pretrial conference date, hearing date for the motion, and trial date.

28 Each separately represented party shall be limited to ten (10) pages, exclusive of tables

1 of contents and authorities. Repetition shall be avoided and, as always, brevity is preferred.
2 Leave for additional space will be given only in extraordinary cases. The excessive use of
3 footnotes in an attempt to avoid the page limitation shall not be tolerated. All substantive material,
4 other than brief argument on tangential issues, shall be in the body of the brief.

5 The moving party must provide its portion of the joint motion in limine to the nonmoving
6 party, via e-mail, no later than nine (9) days before the deadline set forth below for filing motions
7 in limine. The nonmoving party shall then provide the integrated joint motion in limine, along with
8 any exhibits, to the moving party no later than two (2) days before the filing deadline. The moving
9 party may not make any further revisions to the joint motion in limine other than finalizing it for
10 filing. The moving party shall be responsible for filing the joint motion in limine and preparing and
11 filing any supporting exhibits.

12 The moving party may file a reply memorandum of points and authorities no later than the
13 deadline set forth below. The reply memorandum shall not exceed five pages, unless otherwise
14 ordered by the court.

15 A motion in limine made for the purpose of precluding the mention or display of inadmissible
16 matter shall be accompanied by a declaration that includes the following: (A) a clear identification
17 of the specific matter alleged to be inadmissible; (B) a representation to the court that the subject
18 of the motion in limine has been discussed with opposing counsel, and that opposing counsel has
19 indicated that such matter will be mentioned or displayed at trial; and (C) a statement of the
20 specific prejudice that will be suffered by the moving party if the motion in limine is not granted.

21 Any challenge to expert testimony pursuant to Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharm., 509 U.S.
22 579, 113 S.Ct. 2786 (1993), or Federal Rules of Evidence 702-704, must be lodged in the form
23 of a joint motion in limine. The court generally does not hold Daubert hearings.

24 The mandatory chambers copy of all evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion in
25 limine, including declarations and exhibits to declarations, shall be submitted in a separately bound
26 volume and shall include a Table of Contents. **The transcript of the meet and confer session**
27 **shall be included as an exhibit to the motion in limine.** If the supporting evidence exceeds 50
28 pages, then each copy of the supporting evidence shall be placed in a three-ring binder with each

1 item of evidence separated by a tab divider on the right side, and shall include a label on the spine
2 of the binder identifying its contents.

3 The court will not consider any motion in limine in the absence of a joint motion or a
4 declaration from counsel for the moving party establishing that opposing counsel: (A) failed to
5 confer in a timely manner; (B) failed to provide the opposing party's portion of the joint motion in
6 a timely manner; or (C) refused to sign and return the joint motion after the opposing party's
7 portion was added.

8 D. Witness Declarations.

9 For all witnesses whom a party intends to call at trial (including experts), counsel for that
10 party shall file and serve an executed declaration, under penalty of perjury, in lieu of direct
11 testimony. The court will read the declarations in chambers before trial. At trial, the court will
12 permit "live" questioning only for cross-examination and re-direct examination of each witness.
13 Failure to submit any witness's declaration by the deadline set forth below may result in the
14 witness being excluded from trial. This paragraph does not apply to adverse or hostile witnesses,
15 i.e., counsel may call such witnesses to the stand for direct-examination during their case-in-chief.

16 With respect to exhibits for which admission has not been stipulated to in the Pretrial Exhibit
17 Stipulation, the parties must, if appropriate, establish the admissibility of each exhibit subject to
18 an objection through the witnesses' declarations.

19 E. Objections to Witness Declarations.

20 No later than the date set forth below, each party shall file its written objections to the
21 testimony contained in the opposing party's declarations. Failure to file such written objections
22 will be deemed a waiver of any such evidentiary objections.

23 F. Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

24 No later than the date set forth below, each party shall lodge its proposed Findings of Fact
25 and Conclusions of Law, which shall incorporate the agreed-upon facts as well as facts to which
26 there has been no stipulation.

27 G. Opening Statements.

28 No later than the date set forth below, each party shall submit a brief opening statement

1 that summarizes how it expects to prove the key components of its proposed findings.

2 H. Trial Exhibits.

3 Exhibits must be placed in three-ring binders indexed by exhibit number with tabs or
4 dividers on the right side. The spine portion of the binder shall indicate the volume number **and**
5 contain an index of each exhibit included in the volume. Plaintiff shall be responsible for
6 submitting hard copies of all trial exhibits as follows:

7 1. On the **first day of trial**, plaintiff shall submit to the Courtroom Deputy Clerk
8 ("CRD") one (1) three-ring binder containing all **original exhibits** to be used at trial (except
9 those to be used for impeachment only) with official exhibit tags attached and bearing the
10 same number shown on the exhibit list.

11 2. **Plaintiff shall also submit to the CRD** two (2) three-ring binders with **copies**
12 of each exhibit, tabbed with exhibit numbers, for use by the court and the witness.

13 3. Exhibit tags may be obtained from the Clerk's Office, located on the fourth
14 floor of the First Street Courthouse. Plaintiff shall use yellow tags and defendant shall use
15 blue tags. Digital exhibit tags are also available on the Court's website under Court Forms
16 > General forms > Form G-14A (plaintiff) and G-14B (defendant). Digital exhibit tags may
17 be used in lieu of tags available from the Clerk's Office. The tags shall be stapled to the
18 upper right-hand corner of each exhibit with the case number, case name, and exhibit
19 number placed on each tag. Exhibits shall be numbered 1, 2, 3, etc., **not** 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc.
20 The defense exhibit numbers shall not duplicate plaintiff's numbers. Counsel shall
21 designate any "blow-up" enlargement of an existing exhibit with the number of the original
22 exhibit followed by an "A."

23 VI. COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ORDER, THE LOCAL RULES, AND THE FEDERAL RULES
24 OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.

25 All parties and their counsel are ordered to become familiar with the Federal Rules of Civil
26 Procedure, the Local Rules of the Central District of California, and the court's standing orders.
27 The failure of any party or attorney to comply with the requirements of this Order, the Local Rules,
28 or the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure may result in sanctions being imposed.

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1 Center for Biological Diversity et al v. Debra Haaland, et al.
2 Case No. CV 24-5459 FMO (MAAx)

3 CASE DEADLINES

4 The court hereby enters the following scheduling order:

5 1. Any stipulation or motion to amend as to any claims, defenses and/or parties shall be
6 lodged/filed no later than **January 4, 2025**, failing which it shall be deemed that party's waiver of
7 any such amendments in this action. All "Doe" defendants are to be identified and named on or
8 before **January 4, 2025**, on which date all remaining "Doe" defendants will be dismissed, unless
9 otherwise ordered by the court upon a showing of good cause.

10 2. All fact discovery shall be completed no later than **April 4, 2025**.

11 3. All expert discovery shall be completed by **June 18, 2025**. The parties must serve their
12 Initial Expert Witness Disclosures no later than **April 18, 2025**. Rebuttal Expert Witness
13 Disclosures shall be served no later than **May 19, 2025**. The parties should commence expert
14 discovery shortly after the initial designation of experts, because Local Rules 7-3 and 37-1 require
15 ample time to meet and confer as well as brief the matters, and because the final pretrial
16 conference and trial dates will not be continued merely because expert discovery is still underway.

17 4. The parties shall complete their settlement conference before Timothy V.P. Gallagher
18 ("settlement officer") no later than **April 4, 2025**. Plaintiff's counsel shall contact the settlement
19 officer with enough time so that the settlement conference date is early enough to comply with the
20 settlement completion deadline imposed by this court. After obtaining available dates from the
21 settlement officer, counsel for the parties shall confer and select one of the proposed dates.
22 Plaintiff's counsel shall then advise the settlement officer of the settlement conference date
23 selected by parties. If the case settles, counsel shall file a Notice of Settlement no later than 24
24 hours after the case is settled, stating when they expect to file their dismissal papers. Otherwise,
25 **the parties must, no later than 48 hours after the settlement conference is completed, file**
26 **a Status Report Re: Settlement.** The Status Report shall not disclose the parties' settlement
27 positions, i.e., the terms of any offers or demands. The Status Report shall describe the efforts
28 made by the parties to resolve the dispute informally, i.e., the occasions and dates when the

1 parties participated in mediation or settlement conferences. The Status Report shall also include
2 the name of the settlement officer who assisted the parties with their settlement conference.

3 5. Any motion for summary judgment or other potentially dispositive motion (other than a
4 motion under Rule 12(b)(6)) shall be filed no later than **July 18, 2025** and noticed for hearing
5 regularly under the Local Rules. Any untimely or non-conforming motion will be denied. *All*
6 *potentially dispositive motions shall comply with the requirements set forth in the Court's Order Re:*
7 *Summary Judgment Motions issued contemporaneously with the filing of this Order.* Each party
8 is allowed one potentially dispositive motion.⁴

9 6. The parties shall file memoranda of contentions of fact and law; witness lists; witness
10 declarations; the Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation; and joint motions in limine no later than **September**
11 **12, 2025.**

12 7. The parties shall lodge their proposed Pretrial Conference Order and file the proposed
13 findings of fact and conclusions of law; objections to witness declarations; opening statements;
14 and reply memoranda to motions in limine no later than **September 19, 2025.**

15 8. The final pretrial conference and hearing on motions in limine is scheduled for **October**
16 **3, 2025** at 10:00 a.m.

17 9. The trial is scheduled to begin on **Monday, October 20, 2025** at 9:00 a.m.

18 Dated this 4th day of October, 2024.

19 _____ /s/
20 Fernando M. Olguin
United States District Judge
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⁴ A motion filed pursuant to Rule 12(c) more than 21 days after the pleadings are closed will
be deemed a dispositive motion.